Message

From: Garcia, David [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=F0A9D226635746338D68D71576583E6A-GARCIA, DAVID]
Sent: 8/19/2020 4:25:37 PM
To: Ngo, Kim [Ngo.Kim@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: OAR Lead Region: The Weekly 8-7-2020

This is the update from oar lead region that is has helpful information.

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From: Spenillo, Justin <Spenillo.Justin@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 07, 2020 11:22 AM
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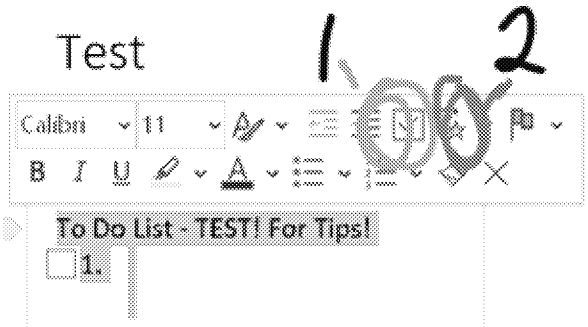
Subject: OAR Lead Region: The Weekly 8-7-2020

OAR Lead Region: The Weekly 8-7-2020

Productivity Tips: **OneNote** has been a very helpful app/tool for workgroups and individuals alike to keep track of group notes and organizing workload. It is easily integrated as a "Tab" in any Teams channel. Check out the OAR LRC and Sublead Team to see various uses of OneNote, Regional Haze is a good one to start.

For those who like to use OneNote for organization, the "Tip" of the week is to try out the "tags." Next to every line of text in OneNote you can create a "tag" by right clicking to open the shortcut menu (image below). Clicking the 80's neon green circle 1 will create a checklist box which you can "check" once a To Do item has been completed. Clicking the PNW cyan circle 2 will open a whole slew of tags with which to organize. Enjoy as you see fit, functional, or perhaps even fun.



Amuse Bouche: Whoa...

Updates

- **Final Guidance: Plantwide Applicability Limits (PALs) –** EPA has issued a final guidance memorandum titled, Plantwide Applicability Limitation Provisions Under the New Source Review Regulations. This guidance clarifies plantwide applicability limitation (PAL) provisions in the new source review (NSR) regulations. EPA promulgated the PAL regulations as part of the 2002 NSR Reform Rule. (67 FR 80186, December 31, 2002). A PAL is an optional, flexible permitting mechanism available to major stationary sources that involves the establishment of a plantwide emissions limit, in tons per year, for a regulated NSR pollutant. A PAL simplifies NSR applicability by giving a source the ability to manage physical and operational changes, and the impacts of those changes on facility-wide emissions, without triggering major NSR or the need to conduct project-by-project major NSR applicability analyses. This final guidance addresses specific issues raised by stakeholders regarding the PAL regulations, including PAL permit reopening, PAL expiration, PAL renewal, PAL termination, and monitoring requirements for PALs. This memorandum also contains a discussion of the general advantages of PALs, other considerations relevant

to potential PAL permit applicants, and the results of a PAL implementation survey conducted by EPA. This final guidance memorandum reflects stakeholder input on the draft guidance received during a public comment period from February 13, 2020, to March 16, 2020.
The final guidance is available at: www.epa.gov/nsr.

- **Webinar, Exceptional Events Module within SPeCS –** OAQPS has completed the initial development of the Exceptional Events submission and tracking module within the State Planning and Electronic Collaboration System (SPeCS). The Exceptional Events module is an add-on to SPeCS for SIPs. I would like to thank the staff in your Regions for their invaluable help throughout the development of this implementation tool. We believe the Exceptional Events module within SPeCS will provide a transparent and modernized way to electronically submit and track exceptional events demonstrations.

  OAQPS is hosting a webinar for the EPA Regions on Tuesday, August 11, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. EDT [Join Microsoft Teams Meeting]. You may register for the Exceptional Events module through the Central Data Exchange (CDX) beginning on Friday August 14, 2020. If you have any questions regarding this webinar or registration, please contact Denise Scott at scott.denise@epa.gov or (919) 541-4280.

- **2010 1-Hour SO_2 Primary NAAQS Redesignations –** This week, EPA proposed to redesignate certain unclassifiable areas in Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, and Texas, designated during the EPA's Round 2 air quality designations for the 2010 1-Hour SO2 Primary NAAQS, to attainment/unclassifiable based on newly available monitoring data. Specifically, EPA now has the 3 years of data required to determine that these areas are meeting the standards.

- **Congressional Update –** On August 5th, SEPW examined the discussion draft S.____ American Nuclear Infrastructure Act of 2020. Among other things, this bill would require EPA to establish a carbon emissions avoidance program to evaluate nuclear power facilities determined to be at risk of premature shutdown due to economic factors and award credits to facilities that meet certain specifications. Concern was expressed about EPA housing such a program.

- **Request for Applications: National Indoor Environments Program, Reducing Public Exposure to Indoor Pollutants –** The U.S.EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR), Indoor Environments Division (IED) has posted a new RFA (EPA-OAR-ORIA-20-09) here: https://www.epa.gov/grants/air-grants-and-funding. This is a competitive funding opportunity for projects and programs that are aimed at reducing public exposure to indoor air pollutants. EPA intends to award cooperative agreement(s) for projects that will advance national policy and systems, reduce disparities and ensure programs and practices aimed at indoor air risk reduction are sustainable. Projects should reduce indoor air risks and yield measurable environmental and public health outcomes in one or more priority areas: radon, indoor environmental asthma triggers, comprehensive indoor air risk reduction. Applications will be accepted through September 15, 2020. Applications must be submitted through grants.gov. Click here for more information.

Recurring

- **Science Corner –**
  - *Long-term Impact of PM(2.5)Mass and Sulfur Reductions on Ultrafine Particle Trends in Boston, MA From 1999 to 2018* – Research by Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Harvard researchers and ACE Center indicate that long-term trends of $PM_{2.5}$ mass and sulfur concentrations had a small but significant impact on trends of ultrafine particles.

    Abstract: Ultrafine particles (UFPs) pose a human health risk as they can penetrate deep into the respiratory system. The Harvard supersite in Boston, MA provides one of the longest time series of UFP concentrations.

This study examined the hypothesis that long-term reductions in $PM_{2.5}$ mass and sulfur have influenced UFP trends by limiting the ability of UFPs to coagulate onto the accumulation mode via polydisperse coagulation with larger particles. The study used Generalized Additive Models (GAMs) to assess whether changes in $PM_{2.5}$ mass and sulfur concentrations resulted in smaller than expected (assuming no change in $PM_{2.5}$ mass or sulfur) decreases in daily UFP trends over the 20-year period from 1999 to 2018. The impact of $PM_{2.5}$ mass and sulfur changes were represented as UFP penalties. Bootstrapping was applied to calculate standard errors for the different trend and penalty estimates. Results showed that $PM_{2.5}$ mass and sulfur concentrations declined significantly over the study period. The analysis found an estimated 7.3% (95% CI: 3.5, 11.1%) UFP penalty due to long-term $PM_{2.5}$ mass trends, and a 9.9% (95% CI: 6.2, 13.7%) UFP penalty due to long-term sulfur trends. Findings from this study suggest that future UFP control efforts should account for the role of $PM_{2.5}$ mass and sulfur changes. Full Article

- **SIP Issues Tracker –** None this week.

- **Bowling Chart Reminder –** Next data at the end of the month. Please contact Justin Spenillo, Marc Vincent, Emily Millar/Stephen Senter with any data discrepancies during the Regional Review period or outside the data processing/publishing period.

Bowling Chart Month	Regional FRED and SPeCS QA/QC	OAQPS data pull for report	Report posted on ELMS SharePoint (OPMO) and sent to Regions (LRC)	OPMO BFS data entry
August	Until August 10	August 11	August 12	August 13

- **Personnel Updates –**
  - **Regional Air Program Contacts:** Please send any updates to Justin Spenillo. An updated PDF will be attached at the end of each month and posted to the OAR Lead Region & Sub-lead Team.

  - **R2**: Gavin Lau will be acting section chief for the ARD-Air Planning Section in R2 for the next 6 weeks.
  - **R4:** Caroline Freeman has been selected as a permanent ARD Division Director beginning on August 30, 2020.
  - **R6:** Starting Monday, August 3rd Kim Ngo, will serve as the new permanent Deputy Director, for ARD in R6.

Reminders

- **Due Fri. August 7th:** ADDs to take Workforce Planning Survey, found on 7/27 Spenillo email. (Sorry, there was a typo last week on the due date, if you need an extra day or two that will be ok.)

Recent EPA News Releases for Air and Radiation

- **EPA Celebrates 50 Years of Research: Highlight on Flint Hills Prescribed Burns Release Date: 08/06/2020**
- **EPA Action Ensures that West Springfield, Mass. Industrial Laundry Will Reduce Air Emissions Release Date: 08/05/2020**

Upcoming Meetings & Events

- **West Coast Collaborative**: May 24-26, 2021. Tacoma WA. More information here.

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